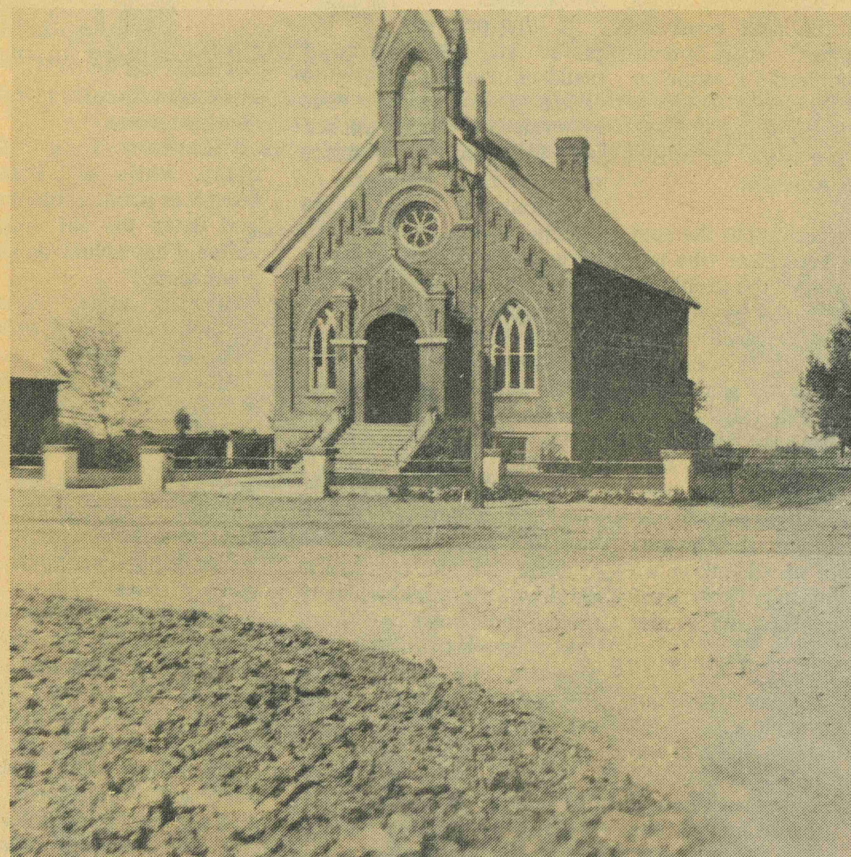


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History of Clearfield

First in a series



CLEARFIELD'S FIRST CHAPEL, dedicated Sept. 17, 1911. Photo by Bula Harris Casteel taken mid-thirties.

Editors note: Following is the first of a series of articles on the history of Clearfield which will continue throughout July. Thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and to private citizens who have furnished the Courier with information and or pictures.

It has been recorded that President Brigham Young, while passing through the area that is now Clearfield, stopped his caravan and, looking west over the hot burning sand, prophesied "The time will come when water will be brought out to irrigate the arid soil and this country will become very populous and the section lying between Salt Lake City and Ogden will be so closely populated that it will be difficult to say when you leave one settlement or two and enter another."

Though not a single dwelling could be found in this dry and desolate place, during mid-nineteenth century, land could be bought for 25 cents an acre in this area known as "Sand Ridge."

Changes began to take place when in 1869, the Utah Central Railroad brought its "iron horse" through the area on tracks that were located immediately west of where Main Street now runs.

The railroad stop here was known as Syracuse Junction.

In 1876, the area received its first permanent settlers. Richard and Emiley Hamblin and their two small children lived in a dug-out shoveled out of the hillside on their land a short distance west and south of the junction of present-day State Street and 700 South.

Two years later, October 12, 1878, Emiley gave birth to a son Moroni, the first white child to be born in Clearfield.

The Hamblins, emigrants from England, were unsuccessful in several attempts to locate water through digging wells. Drinking water was hauled from Kays Creek in Layton.

Finally, in 1881, a vein of water was struck in a 100 foot well that supplied not only the culinary needs but through a hand made windmill the first irrigation water for the parched soil. Hamblin planted a small patch of strawberries which grew abundantly and sold them on the Ogden market. He was later considered an expert in the growing of berries.

The event that did more to transform the bleak Sand Ridge into a fertile garden spot was the coming of the Davis and Weber Counties Canal in 1884 following the completion of the East Canyon Dam.

Now crops could be grown anywhere. This precipitated an im-

mediate population boom. People plowed up the sagebrush, cactus and prickly pears, and homes began to appear throughout the area.

Most were situated in the lower part of the area which is now called Syracuse. A branch of the LDS Church was organized there in 1882.

In 1907 it was determined that enough people were living in the Clearfield area to form a ward. A meeting was held under the direction of Elder Orson F. Whitney of the Council of Twelve, and the first Clearfield ward was organized with James G. Wood sustained as Bishop.

A chapel was built by the struggling community and dedicated Sept. 17, 1911 by President Joseph F. Smith.

One of Clearfield's oldest living residents, nine (quite possibly the oldest) is Katie Layton Harris, 96 years old.

She recalls moving to Clearfield with her family in 1900. She married Enoch Harris in 1903.

The couple bought a home "two rooms and a pantry" at 850 S. 1000 E. where they raised their family.

Though Mr. Harris passed away some years ago, his wife still retains possession of the family home.

With a truly remarkable memory, Mrs. Harris recalls that at the time she and Mr. Harris were beginning their home, the only other family

located east of what is now State Street, was the Mark Roberts family. The Roberts' lived in a one-room log cabin located across from where the library now stands on 1000 East.

"West of the Highway the Richard Hamblins and John Reeds had homes."

Mrs. Harris recalled the Bamberger Electric Railroad coming through Clearfield in 1905, "It ran right about where the Freeway is," she said.

"It was very helpful to Clearfield residents to have a means of transportation to Salt Lake or Ogden."

Strawberries, raspberries and dewberries were hauled by the family to Ogden markets in a one horse buggy.

Mrs. Harris remembers the first car she and her husband purchased, a 1918 Studebaker. "It had side curtains, no windows, and two jump seats for children."

"Our entertainment mostly consisted of church activities such as quilting and making rugs," she said.

She recounted that Jim Warren owned and operated the first general store in Clearfield.

The General Store and The Clearfield Canning Company (now Woods Cross Canning) were both organized the same year as the first LDS Ward, 1907.

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Serving the Clearfield-Sunset Area

July 2, 1980

Corporation buys local weeklies

The Standard Corporation today announced the purchase of several Northern Utah weeklies from Roy publisher Howard Stahle.

The Standard Corporation currently publishes the

Nevada.

"From the very first day I worked on a newspaper, my dream was to someday own and operate a small daily newspaper," admitted Mr.

before I found out that there was a small daily for sale in Fallon.

"My wife (Bonnie) and I visited Fallon shortly thereafter and were serious in our discussions to

